

S. Gutt 12-6-00  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In re Application of:** Paul H. Burmeister et al.  
**Application No.:** (Not yet assigned)  
**Filed:** October 26, 1999  
**For:** IMPROVED TISSUE SUPPORTING DEVICES  
**Examiner:** (Not yet assigned)  
**Group Art Unit:** (Not yet assigned)

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Box Patent Application  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Docket No.: S63.2-8606

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Before beginning examination and calculating the fees in this application, please amend the above-identified application as indicated below:

**In the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Cross-reference to Related Applications

This application is a Continuation of US Application 08/737,492, filed November 18, 1996 which is a National Stage Application based on PCT/US95/06228 filed May 18, 1995 which is a Continuation-in-Part of U.S. Application No. 08/246,320 filed May 19, 1994, now abandoned. All of the applications referred to in this paragraph are incorporated herein in their entirety by reference.

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-21.

Please add new claims 22-35 as follows:

--22. A stent comprising:

a plurality of annular elements, each annular element having a compressed state and an expanded state, wherein each annular element has a longitudinal dimension which is smaller in the radially expanded state than in the compressed state; and

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